

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN JUSTICE MINISTER INVITES INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO INSPECT MOROCCAN
JUDICIAL SYSTEM

REF 77 RABAT 7057 (NOTAL)

1. IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JANUARY 13 IN PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY LE MATIN, GOM MINISTER OF JUSTICE MAATI BOUABID DEFENDED GOM'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. AFTER STATING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAD BEEN DUPED, INASMUCH AS ITS "OBSERVERS" AT THE CASABLANCA TRIALS OF FEBRUARY 1977 HAD BEEN CHOSEN FROM AMONG SYMPATHIZERS OF SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS INSPIRED BY A HOSTILE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY (I.E. ALGERIA), BOUABID CALLED FOR ALL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS - AND ESPECIALLY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - TO SEND TO MOROCCO TOTALLY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS. "WE SHALL OPEN OUR PRISONS, OUR COURTS, AND THE DOSSIERS ON ANY TRIALS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDER WAY, TO ALLOW THEM (THE OBSERVERS) TO REALIZE THAT OUR JUSTICE HAS THE GREATEST CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE UN CHARTER OF 1948."

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2. COMMENT: THIS OPEN INVITATION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO SEND IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS TO MOROCCO (PREFIGURED IN MY DEC. 23 CONVERSATION WITH BOUBID) MAY OFFER A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR A DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOM AND A.I. SUCH DIRECT CONTACTS WOULD AVOID A SITUATION WHERE WE RISK APPEARING TO EACH TO BE THE ADVOCATE OF THE OTHER AND PERMIT US GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR OWN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE GOM. A VISIT BY ONE OR MORE

REPRESENTATIVES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WOULD IN PARTICULAR PERMIT A REVIEW OF THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE A.I. REPORT OF OCT. 31, 1977, WHOSE ERRORS IN VERIFIABLE FACT AND RELIANCE ON SECONDHAND INFORMATION MAKE IT A LESS THAN ENTIRELY VALID DOCUMENT (SEE 77 RABAT 6054). MY CONVERSATION AND THE BOUBID INTERVIEW REFLECT THE GOM'S RESPECT FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S MOTIVES AND HEADQUARTERS BUT ALSO A DISTRUST OF THE OBSERVERS ON WHOM IT SOMETIMES RELIES. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO ENSURE THAT A.I. IS AWARE OF JUSTICE MINISTER BOUBID'S OPEN INVITATION.

3. A SUMMARY OF OTHER POINTS COVERED IN THE INTERVIEW WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEPARATE AIRGRAM.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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